

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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Military Training Schools

1. A school for Frontier Troop student officers is located approximately ten kilometers from Sofia on the road to Dürvenitsa. Courses are given at this school for preparation for appointment as regular Frontier Troop officers. The student body is composed of the following:
 - a. Young men coming from civilian life or from military colleges who intend to follow a military career; and
 - b. Noncommissioned officers who possess the special necessary prerequisites and are already serving in units dealing with their specialty, who are judged to be capable of successfully completing the courses and becoming members of the officer cadres.

2. The "Vasil Levski" Officer Candidate School is located in Oborishte Street in Sofia. A park surrounds the buildings which comprise this school and hides it from outside view. Courses are given here for Regular Army Officer Candidates of the Infantry, the Artillery, and the Engineers. No courses are given at this school for tank corps officers. The course lasts two to three years.
3. A school for regular tank corps officer candidates is located in Kazanluk.
4. The "Shkola Suvorovska" Military School is located in the Pavlovo Kvartal (ward) of Sofia, in the vicinity of Gorna Banya. The purpose of this school is to prepare young men destined for a military career by means of a long period of studies. Children are admitted to this school when seven years of age. The course lasts ten years, so that the students graduate at the age of 17. During the ten years they spend at this school, the

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boys follows the normal program of studies necessary to obtain a gymnasium diploma, alternating the regular scholastic program with studies which are of a military nature. At the conclusion of the course, the students may enter schools for appointment as Regular Army Officers, and have precedence over other competitors, as well as the possibility of choosing their arm or specialty. Their uniform consists of the following:

- a. Blouse with pockets;
- b. Long trousers, with a red stripe on the side; and
- c. Stiff cap with a visor and a red band.

The uniform and cap are black.

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5. The "Nakhimov" Naval school is located in Stalin and is organized along the same lines as the "Suvorov" School described above. The young boys attending this school are trained to become naval officers. The winter uniform of the students consists of black cloth of the same type as that used by the "Suvorov" School students. The band on their caps and the stripe on their trousers, however, are sky blue. Their summer uniform is that of a seaman, which consists in part of a round cap on which is a ribbon inscribed with "Nakhimovska Shkola."

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Military Service for University Students¹

6. Military service for university students consists of two periods, a theoretical and a practical one.
 7. The theoretical period is carried out in the interval between the end of the second year and the beginning of the third year of studies and lasts 45 days. The program includes the following:
 - a. Formal instruction;
 - b. Military rules and training;
 - c. Weapons training; and
 - d. Tactics, etc.
 8. The practical period is carried out in the interval between the end of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth year of studies and lasts 30 days. The program includes the following:
 - a. Use of terrain;
 - b. Command training;
 - c. Firing practice, etc.
- Particular emphasis is placed on command training.
9. Students are called to the colors under the same regulations as those who are part of regular class call-ups. All the operations connected with the call-up (medical visits, assignment to units, etc.) are under the jurisdiction of the Military Districts.
 10. Students are assigned to units according to the university faculty which they are attending. For example, those studying engineering, economic science, etc., are assigned to artillery, tank and transportation units; those studying law or philosophy are assigned to infantry units; and those studying medicine are assigned to military medical units.
 11. The students are placed in "special units" which, although they have their own separate training program, receive the same treatment as other units which may be composed of men who are part of the regular class call-ups. Their uniform is exactly the same as that of other troops, with no distinguishing insignia.
 12. Upon completion of their studies and providing they have received a degree,

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the students who have regularly followed the two successive periods of military training are appointed Reserve Junior Lieutenants. Those students who fail to receive a degree are not appointed officers and are subject to the regular class call-ups. Graduates are given refresher courses from time to time which last from 30 to 60 days.

Release of Officers

15. The release of officers from the officer cadres of the Bulgarian Armed Forces, which started in November and December 1954, was still continuing in February 1955.

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the measure was allegedly adopted in order to reduce the military budget which had become very burdensome, and because relations between the East and West have improved.

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Civilian Airfield in Ruse

16. For several years now construction has been planned in Ruse for a civilian airport to be located approximately three kilometers southeast of the city. The area covered by an old German military airport abandoned at the end of World War II would be used in part. Although the plan is still current and there is often talk about it (February 1955), no preparatory work had been undertaken.

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